

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 42 and 44-53. Please amend Claims 25 and 30. Please add new Claims 59-66. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An isolated neurotrophic peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of peptide C14 (SEQ ID NO:14), or consisting of an amino acid sequence that ~~[[has]]~~ is at least 90% ~~amino acid sequence identity~~ similar to SEQ ID NO:14, wherein amino acid sequence similarity is determined using the BLAST 2 sequences algorithm with default parameters (FEMS Microbiol Lett. 174:187-188 (1999)).

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) A composition, comprising the isolated neurotrophic peptide of Claim 25 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

28. (Original) The composition of Claim 27, further comprising a mammalian neurotrophic factor.

29. (Previously presented) The composition of Claim 28, wherein said mammalian neurotrophic factor is ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) or leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF).

30. (Currently amended) A fusion protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of peptide C14 (SEQ ID NO:14) and a fusion partner, or consisting of an amino acid sequence that ~~[[has]]~~ is at least 90% ~~amino acid sequence identity~~ similar to SEQ ID NO:14~~[[,]]~~ and a

fusion partner, wherein amino acid sequence similarity is determined using the BLAST 2 sequences algorithm with default parameters (*FEMS Microbiol Lett.* 174:187-188 (1999)).

31. (Original) The fusion protein of Claim 30, wherein said fusion partner is a mammalian neurotrophic factor.
32. (Previously presented) The fusion protein of Claim 31, wherein said neurotrophic factor is ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) or leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF).
33. (Original) A composition, comprising the fusion protein of Claim 30 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.
- 34-58. (Canceled)
59. (New) An isolated neurotrophic peptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of peptide C14 (SEQ ID NO:14), or consisting of an amino acid sequence that is a variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14 in which one amino acid residue is replaced, added or deleted, such that the variant amino acid sequence is at least 90% similar to SEQ ID NO:14 as determined using the BLAST 2 sequences algorithm with default parameters (*FEMS Microbiol Lett.* 174:187-188 (1999)).
60. (New) A composition, comprising the isolated neurotrophic peptide of Claim 59 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.
61. (New) The composition of Claim 60, further comprising a mammalian neurotrophic factor.
62. (New) The composition of Claim 61, wherein said mammalian neurotrophic factor is ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) or leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF).

63. (New) A fusion protein consisting of the amino acid sequence of peptide C14 (SEQ ID NO:14) and a fusion partner, or consisting of an amino acid sequence that is a variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14 in which one amino acid residue is replaced, added or deleted, and a fusion partner, wherein the variant amino acid sequence is at least 90% similar to SEQ ID NO:14 as determined using the BLAST 2 sequences algorithm with default parameters (*FEMS Microbiol Lett.* 174:187-188 (1999)).
64. (New) The fusion protein of Claim 63, wherein said fusion partner is a mammalian neurotrophic factor.
65. (New) The fusion protein of Claim 64, wherein said neurotrophic factor is ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF) or leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF).
66. (New) A composition, comprising the fusion protein of Claim 63 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.